



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

LOCAL MEETINGS AND OTHER NOTICES.

TIME AND PLACE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING. — The Annual Meeting of the American Folk-Lore Society has been arranged to take place in Washington, D. C., on December 27 and 28. The committee having charge of the arrangements are Prof. O. T. Mason, of Washington, Prof. Stewart Culin, of Philadelphia, and Prof. H. Carrington Bolton, of New York, together with the President and Permanent Secretary. Information respecting details will hereafter be given. Members having papers to offer or suggestions to make are requested to address one of the committee. There seems to be every reason to anticipate an exceptionally agreeable and useful meeting, and it is to be hoped that as many members as possible may be in attendance.

CAMBRIDGE BRANCH. — *March 6.* The Branch met at the house of Mr. Henry D. Yerxa, on Washington avenue, and listened to an address by Dr. J. Walter Fewkes on "The Use of Ceremonial Masks among the Pueblo Indians."

Ancient races in America and in the Old World, without racial connection, have had the same ceremonies — among them the use of masks.

The primary divinities of the Pueblos are mostly natural powers, while their secondary divinities are the non-human elements in animals. These animistic gods are innumerable, and are personified by men wearing masks. As in other primitive races, special attention is given to the headdress, though the kilt is also symbolic.

After explaining several of the ceremonies of the Pueblos, Dr. Fewkes exhibited articles illustrative of his address, and remarks were made by a number of members, after which the meeting became informal.

April 3. The monthly meeting was held at the house of Prof. Francis J. Child, 67 Kirkland Street. Professor Child spoke on "Popular Ballads," showing that the ballads sung and recited among the humbler people in various parts of Europe are generally traditional, having originated long ago among persons of rank. All the people know them, and though new ones are written, they do not supersede the traditional ballads. Professor Child delighted the members by reading several ballads. After discussion, the evening was spent socially.

May 1. The annual meeting was held at the house of Mr. E. D. Leavitt, 317 Harvard Street. Mr. Horace E. Scudder read a paper by Mrs. Elizabeth Cavazza entitled, "At the Opra di li Pupi," which appeared in the June number of the "Atlantic Monthly." Many of the members, in anticipation of this paper, had visited the Italian theatre in Boston, where they saw essentially the performance described by Mrs. Cavazza.

Miss Yerxa read a number of Irish tales collected by Mrs. Bergen and herself. These tales clustered about "lis," the homes of the good people. The lis formations are mounds, thought by some to have been inhabited by prehistoric man. The lis people are said to be either fallen angels or the dead. They have the power of becoming invisible, and often by their sing-

ing lure children away from home. They are fond of taking away people or cattle and leaving changelings in their stead. The tales read by Miss Yerxa were very beautiful, and showed how much can be learned from our Irish population, particularly from recent arrivals in America.

Officers for the coming year were elected as follows:—

President, Mr. W. Henry Schofield; Vice-President, Miss Helen Child; Secretary, Mr. Merritt Lyndon Fernald; Treasurer, Mr. Frederic N. Robinson; Executive Committee, Miss Yerxa, Miss Shaler, and Mr. Herbert M. Richards.

June 8. At the invitation of Mrs. John C. Gray an afternoon meeting was held at her house, corner of Brattle and Larch Streets.

Mr. E. F. Fenellosa spoke on Chinese poetry, showing that the Chinese are close students of nature and that their language has a rare synthetic property, well suiting it to poetry.

Mr. W. Kishimoto spoke of the marriage customs in Japan and of Japanese poetry. The different classes of society have their individual ceremonies, one of which Mr. Kishimoto described. In old Japan the suitor went to the house of the girl he desired and threw a shoe into the yard. If next morning the shoe was gone, he knew she thought favorably of him. Now the marriage is arranged by parents and intermediaries. The bridegroom sends gifts to the bride and the bride's parents, while the parents send presents to the groom. The really important ceremony is in private, only the intermediary, his wife and attendants accompanying the bride and groom. The bride is dressed in white to signify that she will die in her husband's house, white being the sign of death. The private ceremony consists of wine-drinking, after which the bride and groom drink with the guests, and then follow music and dancing. Like the Chinese, the Japanese are close to nature in their poetry.

After discussion, the remainder of the afternoon was spent in the garden.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE. — The annual meeting was held in Brooklyn, N. Y., August 16–22. In the introductory address of Dr. Brinton, the President, was set forth the function of the Association, which brings together students in many branches of knowledge, not as strangers, but as members of one household, animated by devotion for science, of which the grand mission is to reveal the simple and natural order which presides over all mental processes.

The Vice-Presidential address of Dr. Franz Boas, on "Human Faculty as Determined by Race," exhibited singular breadth of view and soundness of judgment, and constitutes one of the most remarkable contributions to recent anthropological discussion. Anatomical testimony, while favorable to a difference of mental vigor between races, is incomplete, psychological observation unsatisfactory, experimental physio-psychology in its infancy; the conclusion is, that in this latter field, and in anatomical studies of the nervous system, a solution may be found. Meantime, Dr. Boas rejects the doctrine of the inherent superiority often claimed for the white race, considering the greater progress of the latter as due to the factors of time and of environment; he is of opinion that there is no reason to deny the capa-

city of other races to reach a level equally high. In many cases the inferiority of tribes may be ascribed to mal-nutrition. The civilization of Peru and Central America he regards as exhibiting equal mental capacity with that of antiquity; the advantage of ancient civilizations of the Old World is to be ascribed to lapse of time and to contact. In the ninth century, Arab culture was higher than European; through intermarriage these Arabs influenced African negroes, who have risen to a much higher level than the African average. The peculiar mental tendencies of particular races, like the Jews or Gypsies, may be due to social rather than racial causes. Elsewhere is quoted a passage in which is remarked the common error of travellers with regard to the intelligence of primitive peoples.

The following are titles of papers read at the meeting, having a relation to folk-lore:—

“Primitive Anthropometry and its Folk-Lore.” A. F. Chamberlain.

“A Comparative Study of the Glyphs of Copan and Quirigua.” M. H. Saville.

“The Value of Games in Ethnology.” Stewart Culin.

“Notes on the Customs and Traditions of the Micmacs.” Stansbury Hagar.

“On the History of the Meander Pattern and its Connection with the Swastika.” W. H. Goodyear.

“The Salt of Savagery.” F. H. Cushing.

“Korean Children’s Games.” Stewart Culin.

“Iroquois Migrations.” W. M. Beauchamp.

“The Origin of Numeral Words.” L. L. Conant.

“Translation into Primitive Languages; Errors and Pitfalls; with Illustrations from Algonkian Dialects.” A. F. Chamberlain.

“Mexican Cooking and Mexican Foods.” J. G. Bourke.

“Legends of the Magic Wooing and the Piasa.” Stansbury Hagar.

FOLK-LORE CONFERENCE AT HAMPTON, VA.—On Friday, May 25, a Folk-Lore Conference was held at the Hampton Normal School under the auspices of the Hampton Folk-Lore Society. Mr. William Wells Newell, of the American Folk-Lore Society, and Mrs. Anna Julia Cooper, of the Washington Negro Folk-Lore Society, were invited to deliver addresses. The meeting was held in the large assembly room of Academic Hall, and the audience was composed mainly of trustees, teachers, officers, and graduates of the school. Mr. F. D. Wheelock, President of the Hampton Folk-Lore Society, introduced Mr. Newell, who made an address, which is printed in the “Southern Workman” for July. The addresses were followed by recitations of negro folk-lore, which proved of high interest.